

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## HB 1682

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Concerning horticultural pest and disease boards.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Newhouse, Kretz, Chandler, Upthegrove, Johnson and Ross.

**House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources**  
**Senate Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development**

**Background:**

All counties, either on the initiative of the county legislative authority or upon the petition of 25 county residents, are permitted to create horticultural pest and disease boards (boards). The boards are empowered to field complaints concerning pest and horticultural disease infestations in the county, inspect any parcel in the county for pests or disease, and order landowners to control and prevent pests. Boards are also authorized to conduct pest and disease control operations on private property and charge the landowner for the expense.

All boards have five voting members, four who are appointed by county commissioners and one who is appointed by the Director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture. Four of the appointees must own land in the county, live in the county, and be involved in the primary and commercial production of horticultural products. The fifth appointee must possess a practical knowledge of horticultural diseases and pests. Board members serve two-year terms without salary.

**Summary:**

If no qualified candidates live in the county, a non-resident who owns property in the county and is involved in the primary and commercial production of horticultural products may be appointed to a board.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

House	97	0
Senate	45	0

**Effective:** July 26, 2009

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*